



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 10/780,031 Confirmation No.: 9275  
First Named Inventor: Park, Jongmin Filing Date: 17 February 2004  
Group Art Unit: 2824 Examiner: Wendler, Eric J.  
Atty. Docket No.: R-0003 US  
Title: Technique for Programming Floating-gate Transistor Used in  
Circuitry Such as Flash EPROM  
Assignee(s): ProMOS Technologies Inc.

Mountain View, California  
18 July 2006

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**RESPONSE TO OBJECTION TO DRAWINGS**

Sir:

This is a response to the objection to the drawings presented in the Notice of Allowability mailed 19 April 2006 for the above patent application.

On page 2 of the Notice of Allowability, the Examiner asserts that "The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description:  $V_{SPH}$  paragraph 0052;  $V_{CEL}$ , paragraph 0057;  $V_{CPH}$ , paragraph 0058;  $V_{SRF}$ ,  $V_{SPT}$ , paragraph 0064;  $V_{CRF}$ ,  $V_{CPT}$ , paragraph 0065;  $V_{ITM}$ , paragraph 0069; and  $V_{BEH}$ , paragraph 0072". This objection is respectfully traversed.

Reference symbols  $V_{SPH}$ ,  $V_{CPH}$ ,  $V_{ITM}$ , and  $V_{BEH}$  respectively represent the high values of voltage signals  $V_{SP}$ ,  $V_{CP}$ ,  $V_{SG}$ , and  $V_{BE}$  which appear in the circuit diagrams of Figs. 1 and 2. Reference symbols  $V_{SPT}$  and  $V_{CPT}$  respectively represent target values of high values  $V_{SPH}$  and  $V_{CPH}$  which, as just mentioned, respectively represent the high values of voltage signals  $V_{SP}$  and  $V_{CP}$  that appear in Figs. 1 and 2. Reference symbol  $V_{SRF}$  and  $V_{CRF}$  respectively represents source-voltage percentage-target-reference voltages that exceed nominal value  $V_{SS}$

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by respective specified percentages of the voltage distances from nominal value  $V_{SS}$  to respective target values  $V_{SPT}$  and  $V_{CPT}$  of respective high values  $V_{SPH}$  and  $V_{CPH}$ . Reference symbol  $V_{CEL}$  represents the low value of voltage signal  $V_{CE}$  which appears in the circuit diagrams of Figs. 1 and 2.

37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) specifies that "Reference characters not mentioned in the description shall not appear in the drawings" and that "Reference characters mentioned in the description must appear in the drawings". The Examiner seems to have interpreted the second provision of 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) to mean that all reference symbols (or signs) which appear in the specification must appear in the drawings. However, the specifications of U.S. patents and patent applications commonly contain reference symbols which do not appear in the drawings. For example, reference symbols used in equations presented in the specifications of U.S. patents and patent applications commonly do not appear in their drawings. Similarly, as in the present situation, reference symbols representing the values of items described in the specifications of U.S. patents and patent applications commonly do not appear in the drawings.

It is the understanding of Applicant's Attorney that the second provision of 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) means that all reference symbols representing items shown in the drawings of U.S. patents and patent applications must appear in those drawings. The corollary of this is that reference symbols representing items not shown in the drawings of U.S. patents and patent applications should not appear in those drawings. Inasmuch as the specifications of U.S. patents and patent applications commonly contain reference symbols which do not appear in their drawings, Applicant's Attorney's understanding of the second provision of 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) seems to be the generally understood interpretation of that provision.

As mentioned above, reference symbols  $V_{CEL}$  and  $V_{BEH}$  represent certain values of the voltages respectively represented by reference symbols  $V_{CE}$  and  $V_{BE}$  which appear in Figs. 1 and 2 while reference symbols  $V_{SRF}$ ,  $V_{SPT}$ ,  $V_{CRF}$ , and  $V_{CPT}$  are variously related to the high values  $V_{SPH}$  and  $V_{CPH}$  of the voltages represented by reference symbols  $V_{SP}$  and  $V_{CP}$  that appear in Figs. 1 and 2. However, none of reference symbols  $V_{CEL}$ ,  $V_{SRF}$ ,  $V_{SPT}$ ,  $V_{CRF}$ ,  $V_{CPT}$ , and  $V_{BEH}$  represents an item shown in Fig. 1, in Fig. 2, or in any of the other drawings. Accordingly, none of reference symbols  $V_{CEL}$ ,  $V_{SRF}$ ,  $V_{SPT}$ ,  $V_{CRF}$ ,  $V_{CPT}$ , and  $V_{BEH}$  should appear in any of the drawings. Inasmuch as none of reference symbols  $V_{CEL}$ ,  $V_{SRF}$ ,  $V_{SPT}$ ,

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$V_{CRF}$ ,  $V_{CPT}$ , and  $V_{BEH}$  do appear in any of the drawings, the drawings comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) with respect to reference symbols  $V_{CEL}$ ,  $V_{SRF}$ ,  $V_{SPT}$ ,  $V_{CRF}$ ,  $V_{CPT}$ , and  $V_{BEH}$ .

As also mentioned above, reference symbols  $V_{SPH}$ ,  $V_{CPH}$ , and  $V_{ITM}$  represent the high values of the voltages represented by reference symbols  $V_{SP}$ ,  $V_{CP}$ , and  $V_{SG}$  that appear in Figs. 1 and 2. However, none of reference symbols  $V_{SPH}$ ,  $V_{CPH}$ , and  $V_{ITM}$  represents an item shown in Fig. 1 or 2. Consequently, none of reference symbols  $V_{SPH}$ ,  $V_{CPH}$ , and  $V_{ITM}$  should appear in Fig. 1 or 2.

Reference symbols  $V_{SPH}$ ,  $V_{CPH}$ , and  $V_{ITM}$  do appear in the graphs of Figs. 4 - 13 because those three reference symbols represent voltage levels appearing in Fig. 4 - 13. Since reference symbols  $V_{SPH}$ ,  $V_{CPH}$ , and  $V_{ITM}$  appear in Figs. 4 - 13 where those three reference symbols should appear and do not appear in any of the other figures (including Figs. 1 and 2) where those three reference symbols should not appear, the drawings comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) with respect to reference symbols  $V_{SPH}$ ,  $V_{CPH}$ , and  $V_{ITM}$ .

In short, the drawings fully comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) with respect to all of reference symbols  $V_{SPH}$ ,  $V_{CEL}$ ,  $V_{CPH}$ ,  $V_{SRF}$ ,  $V_{SPT}$ ,  $V_{CRF}$ ,  $V_{CPT}$ ,  $V_{ITM}$ , and  $V_{BEH}$  cited in the objection to the drawings. Hence, the objection to the drawings should be withdrawn.

Please telephone Attorney for Applicant(s) at 650-964-9767 if there are any questions.

**EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO.:**

**EV 743 585 224 US**

Respectfully submitted,



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**SUBMISSION OF FORMAL DRAWINGS**

Sir:

Enclosed for the above patent application are nine sheets of replacement formal drawings consisting of Figs. 1 - 17. The enclosed drawings incorporate the revisions requested in the accompanying Amendment to Drawings. If these revisions are acceptable, please substitute the enclosed drawings for the informal drawings now on file.

Please telephone Attorney for Applicant(s) at 650-964-9767 if there are any questions regarding these drawings.

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